

“I feel that with the Wraparound program I have been able to change my life and move forward in a positive direction and hope to be a story to help others change and reach their goals.”

Chelsea



Sweetser promises to do whatever it takes to connect adults and children to the mental health care and related services they need.



Sweetser's Wraparound Maine Contracts Renewed

In April, Sweetser's Wraparound Maine program contracts were renewed through the Maine Office of Child and Family Services. Each contract allows Sweetser to continue the work already being done in York County, Sagadahoc County and the town of Brunswick, and Knox/Waldo/Lincoln counties.

Initially started in 2007 the Wraparound Maine program at Sweetser is part of a larger, national movement that aims to provide an all-encompassing program for children and teens needing assistance with emotional and behavioral issues. The process seeks to help these clients grow up in their homes and communities, by designing a plan to follow a series of steps for each to realize their hopes and dreams and work toward them. It is a process that brings support people together from different parts of the whole family's life to coordinate their activities, and blend their perspectives of the family's situation.

The New Moon Group is a collaborative effort with current clients and graduates of the Wraparound program, which strives to make the program more accessible and easily understood by youths and potential clients.



Members of the New Moon Group.

The group was formed in 2009, during the phase of a new moon, and is comprised of clients ranging in age from 12-19. Since its inception, the group has been invited to speak at conferences and events, most recently the 2011 Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in the Hall of Flags at the Augusta State House. A graduate of Wraparound Maine spoke about her experiences with the services she received through Sweetser. To read more about Chelsea's story – visit www.sweetser.org and search for "Stories of Excellence".

The New Moon Group has also been invited to give a presentation on May 21 at the G.E.A.R. What Youth and Families Want Conference in Portland.

Mission

Sweetser's mission is to provide quality treatment, support and hope to children, adults and families through a network of mental health, behavioral health and educational services.

Vision

Helping people create promising futures.

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Sweetser Celebrates Continued Success

For those we serve and the many dedicated staff, the day-to-day partnership of working together has always been a challenging balancing act. When you add into the already complex mix of a therapeutic alliance such issues as unemployment, school suspensions, health care reform and state and federal budget crises, you are left amazed by how successful these folks are.

Reflecting on the myriad of activities that this organization is engaged in, to achieve the multitude of accomplishments we have enjoyed over the many years we have been providing services is a marvel. As always, I am very proud of the fine work that our clients and staff have done and continue to do, some of which is documented in this report.

Your steadfast support as friends, volunteers and donors has an incredibly positive influence on our collective achievements. Without such support, our staff would not be able to help those in need and have the success stories that we share with you here. For that, I thank you.

Cabin Fever Art Show & Sale

The 5th annual show held in February, featured works by people in recovery from mental illness. There were 27 artists who participated and nearly 200 people attended the event held in the Brunswick office. All money raised, \$1,700, went to the individual artists.

The purpose of this show is to help shatter the myth that those who suffer from mental illness will never recover.



Governor LePage Visits Sweetser During Capitol for a Day

On Friday, March 18, students at the Sweetser School in Saco welcomed a special visitor. Governor Paul LePage toured the school with his wife and staff during his Capitol for a Day tour of York County.

During his visit, LePage interacted with staff and current Sweetser students, some of whom are about to graduate. The governor was eager to hear about the skills the students have acquired while at Sweetser and the challenges they still face, most notably, where they will live upon graduation. LePage was visibly moved by the stories the students shared with him.

When asked about the impact of the governor's visit, one student said, "He's a nice guy, I think he might help me."

At the end of his visit, LePage sampled whoopie pies and other Maine delicacies which the culinary arts class had prepared. Students also presented him with a poster and a jug of maple syrup that is made annually from maple trees on the Saco campus.

When asked about the importance of the governor's visit to Sweetser, President & CEO Carl Pendleton said, "It was very motivational for our staff to have the governor come and acknowledge the work they do with some of Maine's most troubled youth. Equally important though is the significant amount of time the governor took to meet and speak with these students, culminating in individual photos that I have no doubt, each student will treasure for years to come."



Governor LePage visits with Sweetser students in the Lincoln Library of The School at Sweetser, Saco. Also pictured are Cindy Fagan, Matt Mulligan, Phil Trudeau, Eslie Parquette and Sweetser President & CEO Carl Pendleton.

Sweetser Receives COA Certificate of Recognition

Sweetser has won special recognition from the Council On Accreditation (COA) for quality improvements in service delivery. Sweetser reorganized its child residential services to make them more efficient, more responsive to consumer needs and to needs and priorities identified by Maine state agencies. COA cited these efforts as affirming Sweetser's ongoing commitment to excellence.

COA, an independent, non-profit organization based in New York City, certifies agencies across the country and around the world for providing high quality services consistent with best practices. COA chiefly focuses on child and family services and behavioral healthcare. It partners with service organizations worldwide to improve service outcomes through its accreditation standards and process. Sweetser has been accredited by COA since the early 1980s.

Sweetser Medical Director Marc Kaplan Receives National Honor



Sweetser Medical Director Marc Kaplan, DO, has been named to the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare's Psychiatric Leadership Program, class of 2011.

The Psychiatric Leadership Development Program is part of the National Council's wide-ranging efforts to address the industry's workforce challenges and to improve the quality of care for people with mental illnesses and addictions in a time of increasing service demand and decreasing resources.

As a member of the Psychiatric Leadership Program, Dr. Kaplan will join other medical directors from throughout the nation in working to design, implement and improve innovative treatment and support services. The program also nurtures participating psychiatrists as leaders that can inform public policy in their agency and the broader behavioral health system.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to both learn from and collaborate with national thought leaders throughout my year-long participation in the Psychiatric Leadership Development Program. Sweetser has always explored creative ways to deliver our critical services and we are now poised to develop stronger collaborative relationships with primary care practices, medical specialty practices and hospitals. I'm confident that the expert mentorship I will experience through the Psychiatric Leadership Development Program will allow me to more effectively guide Sweetser to expand and enhance our programs to best meet the needs of those that we serve," Kaplan said of his selection to the Program.

Brunswick Mobile Crisis Team Receives Award from Lincoln County Sheriff

Members of Sweetser's Brunswick Mobile Crisis Team were presented with an award acknowledging their exceptional service to Lincoln County from the Sheriff's Department.

At the sixth annual award dinner held at Lincoln Academy, Dana Bontatibus, Mary Hanley, Laurel Bailey and Elizabeth Hansberger were presented the award by Head Sheriff Todd Brackett.

Supervisor of Crisis Services Dana Bontatibus said of the honor, "It's great to be recognized for the hard work we do with clients in Lincoln County. Over the past year we have really made a concerted effort to improve our presence in Lincoln County, and working collaboratively with the Sheriff's Department during crisis situations has made all the difference. I'm very proud of the work we've done and look forward to the continued relationship with law enforcement."



Pictured at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department's Award Ceremony are (L-R) Sweetser's Mobile Crisis Clinician Mary Hanley, Supervisor of Crisis Services Dana Bontatibus and Residential Supervisor for the Adult Crisis Unit in Brunswick Laurel Bailey.

19th Annual Sold on Kids Auction Raises \$82,000

This year's Sold on Kids Auction presented by KeyBank raised \$82,000. This annual fundraising event has been held for the past 19 years, with funds going directly back to Sweetser programs designed to help those with mental and behavioral health issues.

"It's quite the event. We have strong support from the community, and people generously donate vacations, tickets and a variety of other items to be auctioned off," said Todd Henry, Sweetser's Director of Development.

An April Fool's Day storm didn't keep supporters away, as over 400 people attended the event held at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks. Portland news anchor Lee Goldberg acted as emcee and Bill Zafirson was the auctioneer.

This year, supporters bid on extravagant items during the live auction including a St. Thomas getaway, a ski-in ski-out condo stay at Sugarloaf, a lobster bake for 20 people, and the highest ticket item of the night, a 7-day Costa Rican vacation. This item was generously donated by Sweetser Board member Chris Emmet and his wife, Karol. Chris was a Sweetser client as a child, and the Bowdoin College alumni has been a Board member since 2007.



Auction emcee Lee Goldberg pictured with his wife, Karen.



Board members Carol Thorne (L) and Kathy Macleod (R) with auctioneer Bill Zafirson.

Silent auction items were donated by local businesses and friends of Sweetser and varied from ski passes to jewelry, works of art and even home-brewed beer.

A 50/50 raffle was also held, with the winner generously donating the money back to Sweetser.

Attendees enjoyed a musical performance by 11-year old Lily Black who sang while being accompanied on piano by her music teacher Judith James.

Upcoming Sweetser Events

22nd Sweetser/Prime Motor Group Golf Classic

Monday, June 27
9 a.m. shotgun start
Dunegrass Country Club
Old Orchard Beach

2nd Sweetser Family Day & Cruise-In

Saturday, September 17
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cooks Corner Mall
Brunswick

For more information about our events, please contact Jennifer Steele Skillings at jsteele@sweetser.org or 207.294.4485

Bill Watson Named Garland Award Winner

Bill Watson, an Ed Tech at The School at Sweetser, Saco, has been named the 2010 Garland Award recipient. Watson is an exemplary employee who not only seeks out ways to give back to Sweetser, but also to his community outside of work.

Bill started his career with Sweetser in 2001 as a Relief Youth and Family Counselor and in 2006 he was hired as an Ed Tech. Since coming to Sweetser, Bill has been an active member with the Grants Group, and has facilitated the donation of money and resources to the School.

For three years in a row, Bill has been able to get New Balance to donate hundreds of new sneakers to the School. He has also coordinated with the Belle of the Ball program in Boston to get prom dresses for girls attending the Sweetser Prom; he organizes and promotes the motivational Spirit Day contests at the School; he also organized efforts to raise money for the Japan Red Cross after the earthquake and tsunami.



Sweetser CEO Carl Pendleton (L), and Senior Director of Educational Services Eslie Parquette (R) present Bill Watson with the Garland Award.

“Sometimes it takes a while, but it always pays off in the end. I’ve always tried to be involved in the community and make good things happen for all kids,” Watson said.

The Garland Award was named in honor of Laurence “Bud” Garland, who served on Sweetser’s Board of Directors for more than 33 years. It is given annually to one employee who not only shows quality work at Sweetser, but also exhibits exceptional service to others in non-work related activities. Past honorees have held positions in local government, volunteered with religious and community groups, and participated in sports and special interest clubs.

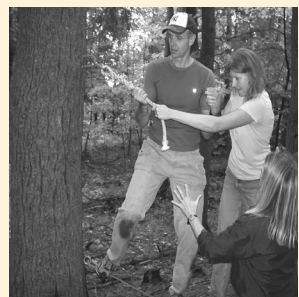
FOCUS Through Adventure!

Sweetser’s FOCUS program offers leadership building opportunities for students, athletes and executives. Each program is tailored to fit the needs of your team and organization. The ropes course offers participants an opportunity to build connections, communication, support and trust within the group.

A core component of the team development for both youths and adults is defining the norms of behavior that will drive them to function as a high performance team. Through this process, participants will enhance their work relationships as key learnings are easily transferred back to the school, field of play or workplace.

To learn more about how we can customize a program for you, your organization or team, contact Donna Murray at dmurray@sweetser.org or 207.294.4929.

The ropes course is routinely inspected and certified by Project Adventure, Inc. FOCUS facilitators are all trained and certified to operate a challenge course; all facilitators maintain First Aid and CPR certification.



Sweetser Schools Recognized on WCSH6

The “Schools That Shine” is a grant program offered by WCSH6 and is designed to highlight schools for their innovation and creativity. The School at Sweetser in Saco was recently awarded the April distinction of being a school that shines. The segment, which aired during the month of April, showed students preparing maple syrup. The content showed students as they cut firewood, boiled sap (collected from trees on the campus) in the sugar shack and bottled the product in the farm’s kitchen. During this process and other opportunities they have to work on the farm, students gain science, math and practical skills as well as a teambuilding experience.

Students can participate in the Experiential Learning program, where those who have experienced difficulty learning in a traditional academic setting can take the opportunity to engage in pre-vocational programs including farming and animal care, woodworking technology, automotive maintenance and repair, greenhouse gardening and culinary arts.

In addition to the segment that aired on television, the school has also received a \$1,000 grant. You can view the complete video at www.sweetser.org.

Sweetser Applauds Volunteers During Annual Celebration

As part of National Volunteer Week, Sweetser has acknowledged the efforts of the many volunteers, board members and corporators, who during 2010 collectively logged 46,994 volunteer hours. This translates to \$1,003,791 of services. The Sweetser Volunteer Celebration was held on April 13, in Brunswick.

At this year’s celebration, five volunteers were given the Governor’s Service Award, which provides recognition for completing over 500 hours of service. Nancy Campbell, Sue Clapp, Pam Davis, Bunny Fazekas and Valerie Herrick were this year’s recipients of this prestigious Award.



Valerie Herrick (L) and Georgia Temple (R) at the Volunteer Celebration on April 13. Both received awards for their exemplary volunteer service.

Outstanding Volunteer Awards were given to Ruth Bentley, Terry Grover, Valerie Herrick, Olin Hiscock, Marcia Hopkins, Kelli Magaw, Wayne Mains, Doris McAuliffe, Andrew Parker, Margaret Vincze, Barbara Waldroup and Kathy Watts.

Supervisor Awards were given to Janet Christopher, Barry Daniels, Christine Gratton, Paula Gustafson, Betty Hood, Georgia Temple, Jan Wertheim and Billie Willard.

For more information about volunteering with Sweetser, contact Linda Danielson, Director of Volunteer Services, at ldanielson@sweetser.org or 207.294.3006.

Camp Endeavor at Sweetser OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, May 25 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The School at Sweetser - Saco

Camp Endeavor at Sweetser provides summer activities through recreational, expressive and art therapies for youngsters unsuccessful in regular camp, recreation or team settings. Attending the Camp will give your child the unique opportunity to experience engaging activities including cooking, ropes courses, sports, dramatic play, hiking and more. A low camper-to-staff ratio ensures each camper plenty of attention and creates exceptional learning opportunities.

During the Open House, you will have the opportunity to meet with the staff and tour facilities. This is an informative event for parents or guardians and the potential campers, so it is highly recommended that you attend with the child or children who would be attending camp.

Camp weeks run from July 5 - August 12, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is for those in grades 1-8.

For more information about Camp Endeavor at Sweetser or to RSVP for the Open House, contact Kate Winant at kwinant@sweetser.org or 207.294.4758.



Learn more about Sweetser at

www.sweetser.org

or



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